13th November 1922]

The Labour department.

428 *Q.*—Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(1) whether the Administration Report of the working of the department of Labour for the year 1921 has been published;

(2) if so, the varied activities in which the department interested itself; and

(3) whether the Government have at any time considered the question of concentrating the attention of the Department of Labour in backward districts of the Presidency?

A.—(1) & (2) The Administration Report of the Labour department for the year 1920–21 which records the activities of the department has been placed on the Editors' Table. The report for 1921–22 has not yet come to Government.

(3) The Government have always been anxious to push forward work for the depressed classes in all parts of the Presidency but financial considerations have hitherto led to the main work being concentrated in the districts of Gōdāvari, Chingleput, South Arcot and Tanjore.

Grazing areas in the Kurnool district.

429 *Q.*—Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(1) whether the allocation of grazing areas in the Kurnool district has been made in direct proportion to the number of cattle in every village and in consultation with the concerned ryots;

(2) whether it is a fact that there are grazing areas which have no water facility of any kind;

(3) whether it is a fact that grass is burnt in the forest at a time when it is fit for grazing purposes;

(4) whether the sale of grazing permits is periodical;

(5) whether it is a fact that such sale causes inconvenience to ryots;

(6) whether accidental trespasses are not occasioned by the fact that the grazing area for which a permit is held is contiguous to another for which no permit is held; and

(7) if so, what steps have been taken by the department in the interest of the ryots to render such trespass avoidable?

A.—(1) No; the grazing blocks in the district are co-terminous with the ranges. The ryots were not consulted when the blocks were formed.

(2) Not so far as the Government are aware.

(3) Yes; it is necessary to burn the grass early in the season before it is dry to avoid the great danger of damage to the forest, which arises when the grass is dry and the fire is difficult to control.

(4) & (5) No; permits are sold throughout the year.

(6) & (7) The Government understand that cases of accidental trespass are rare.